

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 00756 140302Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 L-03  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-02 /051 W  
-----140308Z 029637 /66

R 111040Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3530  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
FAA BRUSSELS 0043

UNCLAS DACCA 0756

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS : EAIR, ETRD, BG  
SUBJECT : BOEING 707 SALES TO BANGLADESH BIMAN

REF: (A) ROME 0152, (B) ROME 1518, (C) OTTAWA 378, (D) ROME 1565

1. M. KURSHED ANWAR, CHAIRMAN OF BANGLADESH BIMAN, REPORTS THAT BIMAN'S JET FLEET IN 1976 CONSISTED OF TWO BOEING 707S. ONE OF THESE HAD BEEN OWNED BY BIMAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS TO BIMAN IN LATE 1976.

2. THE JET FLEET EXPANSION MENTIONED IN REFS B, C, AND D HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY A RECENT PRESS RELEASE. A THIRD BOEING 707 WAS PURCHASED AND ARRIVED IN DACCA FEB. 8. LOCAL SOURCES REPORT IT COST \$8 MILLION, (INCLUDING SPARES), NOT \$2.5 MILLION AS REPORTED IN REF B. THE PLANE WAS PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY TRANS AIR OF CANADA. THE ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER DISCLOSED THAT BIMAN TENDS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR EITHER A BOEING 747 OR A DC-10. LOCAL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES TELLS US THAT THE CURRENT TEJGAON AIRPORT IN DACCA IS INADEQUATE FOR HANDLING UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH AN AIRCRAFT. THE KURMITOLA AIRPORT TO THE NORTH OF DACCA IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL HAVE TO BE OPENED PRIOR TO THE PURCHASE. THAT OPENING IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 1978.

3. IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS PURCHASES OF NEW EQUIPMENT BANGLADESH BIMAN HOPES TO EXPAND ITS ROUTES. THE PRESENT

TWICE WEEKLY ROUND-TRIP DACCA TO BANGKOK FLIGHT WILL BE EXTENDED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH TO INCLUDE SINGAPORE. CURRENT TWICE A WEEK FLIGHTS TO THE GULF STATES WILL BE INCREASED TO THREE TIMES A WEEK. BIMAN HOPES THAT WITH THE NEW BOEING'S ARRIVAL, REGULAR FLIGHTS TO AMSTERDAM WILL BEGIN IN APRIL. FINALLY, BANGLADESH HAS RECENTLY SIGNED AN ACCORD WITH BURMA ALLOWING REGULAR FLIGHTS BY BIMAN BETWEEN DACCA AND RANGOON.

4. COMMENT. MOST OF THE PLANS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SCHEDULE INCREASES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED ON EARLIER OCCASIONS BUT HAVE BEEN DELAYED IN IMPLEMENTATION. (THE PLANS FOR A 747 OR DC-10 ARE NEW.) FURTHER DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE EXPECTED IN THIS SCHEDULING. BIMANIS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY IN THE PROCESS OF RENEWED ROUTE AND FLEET EXPANSION. END COMMENT.

MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EAIR, ETRD, BG  
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**Type:** TE  
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